United Nations

A/56/306

General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 August 2001

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session

Items 20, 20 (a), 37, 38, 40, 97, 107, 107 (c), 109, 109 (b), 109 (d), 110, 110 (a), 110 (b), 110 (c), 110 (e), 110 (f), 114, 115, 118, 118 (a), 118 (b), 119, 124 and 125 of the provisional agenda*

Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children

Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

Science and technology for development: science and technology for development

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation: human resources development; implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade

Environment and sustainable development: implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21; international strategy for disaster reduction; implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa; Convention on Biological Diversity; further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

* A/56/150.

01-51666 (E) 070901

Implementation of the Habitat Agenda and outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on this topic
Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty
Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries: Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries; implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010
High-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development
Advancement of women
Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Letter dated 19 July 2001 from the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, I have the honour to bring to your attention, as requested by the Committee, its recommendation that major United Nations conferences should consider the contributions of space science and technology to a greater extent, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries.

In the past decade, the United Nations has held a series of global conferences to identify priorities for the twenty-first century to promote human development and to enhance human security. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the World Food Summit and the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction are only a few examples of such conferences.

As you are aware, benefits of space science and technology range from enhancing prediction of climate and weather forecast and disaster management to improving rural education. Space science and technology could play an important role in implementing some of the recommendations of those global conferences. However, as the Committee has noted, the final documents adopted by those conferences make little reference to the role of space science and technology.

The General Assembly, in its resolution 55/122 of 8 December 2000, agreed that the benefits of space technology and its applications should be prominently brought to the attention of conferences organized by the United Nations system to address global issues relating to social, economic and cultural development. The Assembly also agreed that the use of space technology should be promoted towards achieving the objectives of those conferences and implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is committed to taking action in response to that agreement of the Assembly.

Indeed, in June this year, the Committee agreed on a mechanism to implement the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), in particular those contained in

the resolution entitled "The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development", adopted by UNISPACE III.[1] With the assistance of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, 11 action teams, led by Governments, are being established to implement a number of recommendations of UNISPACE III. The list of those open-ended action teams, which will commence their work this year, as agreed by the Committee, is attached for your information (see annex). I anticipate the establishment of more action teams at a later stage to implement other recommendations.

I trust that, through your office, the progress being made by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space could be brought to the attention of the intergovernmental bodies, in particular their bureaux and secretariat bodies, that are implementing recommendations of the past major conferences or are preparing for conferences to be convened on economic, social and cultural development issues. The Office for Outer Space Affairs, which serves as the secretariat of the Committee, would continue to promote the use of space technology with other secretariat bodies through the existing inter-agency mechanism, such as the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities. The members of the Committee would also make efforts to highlight the benefits of space technology and its applications as they participate in future conferences. I believe that those efforts, if combined, would lead to creating the synergy between the benefits of space applications and the work of the United Nations on development issues that the General Assembly called for in its resolution 55/122.

In this regard, I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the General Assembly, together with the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,[2] under appropriate items of the preliminary list.

(*Signed*) Raimundo **González A.**
Chairman
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Notes

[1] *Report of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Vienna, 19-30 July 1999* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.I.3), chap. I, resolution 1.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/56/20).

Annex to the letter dated 19 July 2001 from the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the Secretary-General

List of open-ended action teams that will commence their work in 2001 to implement recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III)

	Recommendation[a]	*Interim coordinator(s) (as at 5 July 2001)*	*Countries that have offered to be members (as at 5 July 2001)*
1	Develop a comprehensive, worldwide environmental monitoring strategy	To be determined	Argentina, Austria, China, France, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America
2	Improve the management of Earth's natural resources	India	Azerbaijan, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, France, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America
4	Enhance weather and climate forecasting	Portugal	Argentina, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey and United States of America
6	Improve public health services	Canada	Bulgaria, Canada, France, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic and United States of America
7	Implement an integrated, global system to manage natural disaster mitigation, relief and prevention efforts	China (interim coordinator); Canada (co-coordinator); France (secretariat)	Argentina, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Egypt, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America
10	Improve universal access to and compatibility of space-based navigation and positioning systems	[United States (interim coordinator); Italy (co-coordinator)] To be confirmed	Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Colombia, France, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey and United States of America
11	Promote sustainable development by applying the results of space research	African States, under the leadership of Nigeria	Azerbaijan, Brazil, China, Czech Republic, Egypt, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Lebanon, Monaco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey and United States of America

	Recommendation[a]	*Interim coordinator(s) (as at 5 July 2001)*	*Countries that have offered to be members (as at 5 July 2001)*
14	Improve the international coordination of activities related to near-Earth objects	United Kingdom	Brazil, China, Finland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic and United States of America
17	Enhance capacity-building by developing human and budgetary resources	Japan	Argentina, Azerbaijan, Brazil, France, Egypt, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic and United States of America
18	Increase awareness among decision makers and the general public of the importance of space activities	United States (interim coordinator); Austria (co-coordinator)	Austria, Brazil, Czech Republic, France, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic and United States of America
32	Identify new and innovative sources of financing to support the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III	France	Czech Republic, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines and Syrian Arab Republic

[a] The recommendations have been numbered in accordance with their order of appearance in the Vienna Declaration.